

completely. The largest egg of the series, comprising 115 specimens, measures  $.96 \times .68$  inch, the smallest  $.74 \times .60$  inch. This egg, however, is abnormally small, the remaining ones in the same set coming fully up to the average size, which is  $.88 \times .63$  inch. The shape of the eggs of the genus *Passerella* is ovate, with very little variation in this respect. Comparing the eggs of this genus with those of *Zonotrichia* and *Melospiza*, to which they are most closely allied, it will be found on a critical comparison that, aside from their uniformly larger size as a whole, there is also more difference in the coloration and markings than would appear to the superficial observer; in a word, the general pattern varies to a considerable extent, and while occasionally sets of eggs of these different genera may resemble each other rather closely, the greater number show very distinct characteristics of their own, which are easily enough noted by the oölogist, but not so readily described.

---

## NOTES ON THE SUMMER BIRDS OF THE RESTIGOUCHE VALLEY, NEW BRUNSWICK.

BY JOHN BRITAIN AND PHILIP COX, JR.

THE RESTIGOUCHE RIVER flows easterly through the extreme northern part of New Brunswick, and before emptying into the Baie des Chaleurs, forms for sixty miles the boundary between New Brunswick and Quebec. The greater part of the valley is in about latitude  $48^{\circ}$  N. The country is undulating, in some places mountainous, and almost an unbroken forest. Winter is very severe; snow falls to a great depth and lingers until May; while chilly east winds, from the icy Gulf, make spring late and cold. Summer, however, is warm, except near the sea, where it is tempered by cool breezes; yet the nights, even in July, and far up the valley, are occasionally frosty and cold enough to form ice. About 110 miles of the valley, namely from the mouth of a tributary called the Wagan, to Campbellton, situated at the head of the estuary, were pretty thoroughly investigated, and although the

number of species observed is comparatively small, yet it is hoped that the record of the occurrence of some may prove of interest to the readers of 'The Auk.' The observations were made in July, 1888.

*Merganser americanus.* AMERICAN MERGANSER.—Quite common. Very destructive to young salmon.

*Totanus solitarius.* SOLITARY SANDPIPER.—Rare.

*Actitis macularia.* SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—Not uncommon.

*Bonasa umbellus togata.* CANADIAN RUFFED GROUSE.—Common. Many large broods of young about half-grown were seen.

*Accipiter velox.* SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.—Rare.

*Accipiter cooperi.* COOPER'S HAWK.—Common.

*Buteo borealis.* RED-TAILED HAWK.—Very rare.

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus.* WHITE-HEADED EAGLE.—Not uncommon. A nest was observed in a cliff about two hundred feet above the level of the river.

*Pandion haliaëtus.* AMERICAN OSPREY.—Quite common.

*Bubo virginianus.* GREAT HORNED OWL.—Several young ones just on the wing were observed. They were very tame.

*Ceryle alcyon.* KINGFISHER.—Very common.

*Dryobates villosus.* HAIRY WOODPECKER.—Uncommon.

*Dryobates pubescens.* DOWNY WOODPECKER.—Very rare.

*Picoides arcticus.* BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER.—Rare.

*Sphyrapicus varius.* YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—Rare.

*Colaptes auratus.* FLICKER.—Common around fields.

*Chordeiles virginianus.* NIGHTHAWK.—Not common. Only seen in the vicinity of old burnt lands and settlements.

*Chætura pelagica.* CHIMNEY SWIFT.—Common, nesting in trees.

*Tyrannus tyrannus.* KINGBIRD.—Seen only in the neighborhood of houses near the mouth of the river. Very rare.

*Contopus borealis.* OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER.—Common.

*Contopus virens.* WOOD PEWEE?—From its note thought to be this bird.

*Empidonax minimus.* LEAST FLYCATCHER.—Common.

*Cyanocitta cristata.* BLUE JAY.—Common.

*Perisoreus canadensis.* CANADA JAY.—Not common.

*Corvus americanus.* CROW.—Local.

*Scolecophagus carolinus.* RUSTY GRACKLE.—Rare and local.

*Quiscalus quiscula.* BRONZED GRACKLE.—Very rare.

*Pipicola enucleator.* PINE GROSBEEK.—This bird has been regarded as an exceedingly rare summer resident, some ornithologists even doubting that it nests within the limits of the Province. At nearly every camping ground, however, and at other points, we either saw or heard it, and a few miles below the mouth of the Kedgwick found a nest containing one egg and three young. The nest was placed in a crevice of a rock,

under a projecting shelf, and was partly concealed by weeds. The location was a cool one, for it was within a few feet of the water, on moist rock, and well protected from the sun's rays. The outside diameter of the nest was four inches, inside diameter two and three quarters, and depth three. The outer part was made of frayed strips of cedar bark, which became finer towards the interior, the latter being lined with fine vegetable fibres, runners of *Fragaria vesca*. No hair or fur, feathers or down, could be noticed, nor did the structure evince any great degree of skill. Enlarge the diameter, wind a few hairs around the inside, daub a little clay here and there, and it would be mistaken for a Robin's nest. We packed the egg away in cotton wool until it could be blown, but when examined next morning it had already hatched. One male bird was collected.

*Carpodacus purpureus*. PURPLE FINCH.—Common; often met in company with the preceding species in the localities mentioned.

*Loxia curvirostra*. AMERICAN CROSSBILL.—Not uncommon.

*Spinus tristis*. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH.—Occasionally met with near settlements.

*Spinus pinus*. PINE FINCH.—This species has heretofore been regarded as only a casual summer resident, but we found it quite common, especially about lumber camps and anglers' quarters where flocks of ten to fifteen were often seen. It is very tame.

*Zonotrichia albicollis*. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.—Abundant.

*Spizella socialis*. CHIPPING SPARROW.—Only seen about Campbellton.

*Junco hyemalis*. JUNCO.—Very common.

*Melospiza fasciata*. SONG SPARROW.—Common.

*Melospiza georgiana*. SWAMP SPARROW.—Rare.

*Chelidon erythrogaster*. BARN SWALLOW.—Rare.

*Tachycineta bicolor*. TREE SWALLOW.—Rare; only in vicinity of settlements.

*Clivicola riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.—A small colony at the the mouth of the Kedgwick.

*Ampelis cedrorum*. AMERICAN WAXWING.—Common in places burned over a few years ago, where wild cherries and June-berries are to be found.

*Vireo olivaceus*. RED-EYED VIREO.—Common.

*Vireo solitarius*. SOLITARY VIREO.—Observed at but one point.

*Helminthophila peregrina*. TENNESSEE WARBLER.—Very rare.

*Dendroica æstiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—Rare; seen principally in the vicinity of settlements.

*Dendroica coronata*. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.—Rather common.

*Dendroica maculosa*. MAGNOLIA WARBLER.—Quite common.

*Dendroica virens*. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.—Rare.

*Seiurus aurocapillus*. OVENBIRD.—Quite common.

*Seiurus noveboracensis*. WATER THRUSH.—Met with frequently.

*Geothlypis philadelphia*. MOURNING WARBLER.—Not uncommon in the upper part of the valley, but unobserved on the lower river.

- Geothlypis trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—Rare.  
*Sylvania canadensis*. CANADIAN WARBLER.—Occurring occasionally.  
*Setophaga ruticilla*. REDSTART.—Common.  
*Troglodytes hiemalis*. WINTER WREN. Abundant locally.  
*Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Quite common, with young just on wing.  
*Parus atricapillus*. BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE.—Not uncommon.  
*Parus hudsonicus*. HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE.—Not uncommon.  
*Turdus aonalaschkæ pallasii*. HERMIT THRUSH.—Observed everywhere.  
*Merula migratoria*. ROBIN.—Very common.
- 

## NOTES ON WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA BIRDS.

BY W. A. JEFFRIES AND J. A. JEFFRIES.

ON the 14th of May, 1888, with the prospect of two weeks to ourselves, we arrived at Sylva in Jackson County, North Carolina. Sylva is a small settlement on Scott's Creek, about three miles above its junction with the Tuckassegee, a tributary of the Tennessee, at an elevation of 2000 feet. The Plott Balsams on the north and northeast, rise to 5000 and 6000 feet. King's Mountain, due south, is 3000 feet high.

The valleys in the neighborhood are all cleared and planted, usually to corn; grass is a rarity. Heavy timber covers the hillsides, dotted here and there with clearings, or patches of tall charred trunks affording good feeding grounds for *Colaptes auratus* and *Ceophlæus pileatus*. The life of a hillside farm is short, owing to the crude methods of the farmer. The surface of the soil is little more than scratched with a 'bull tongue' plough: a heavy plough suitable for such work is unknown. This results in bad washing of the soil, which soon becomes too much gullied for service.

On the 14th, immediately after our first futile attempt to make a meal off native fare, we hired horses and rode for twenty miles, going towards the northeast. On this ride we saw two Robins; three Robins only were seen by us below Franklin. We saw also several flocks of from six to twenty *Spinus tristis*; similar flocks